mercruiser
STERN DRIVES & INBOARDS

service bulletin

A. Overheating at Idle RPM - MIE 230/260/340 and MCM 330 (B-W) Models
B. Improved Spark Plug Boot for Thunderbolt IV (HEI) Ignition Systems - MIE 230/260/340 and MCM 898R/228R/260R/330 (B-W) Models
C. Spark Plug Wire Positioning - MIE 230/260/340 and MCM 898R/228R/260R/330 Models
D. Quicksilver Insulating Compound

NUMBER: 83-22

CIRCULATE TO:
SERVICE MANAGER ☐
PARTS MANAGER ☐
MECHANICS ☐
"Place in a Service Bulletin Binder"

A. OVERHEATING AT IDLE RPM - MIE 230/260/340 and MCM 330 (B-W) MODELS

IMPORTANT: This does not apply to engines with Closed Cooling Systems.

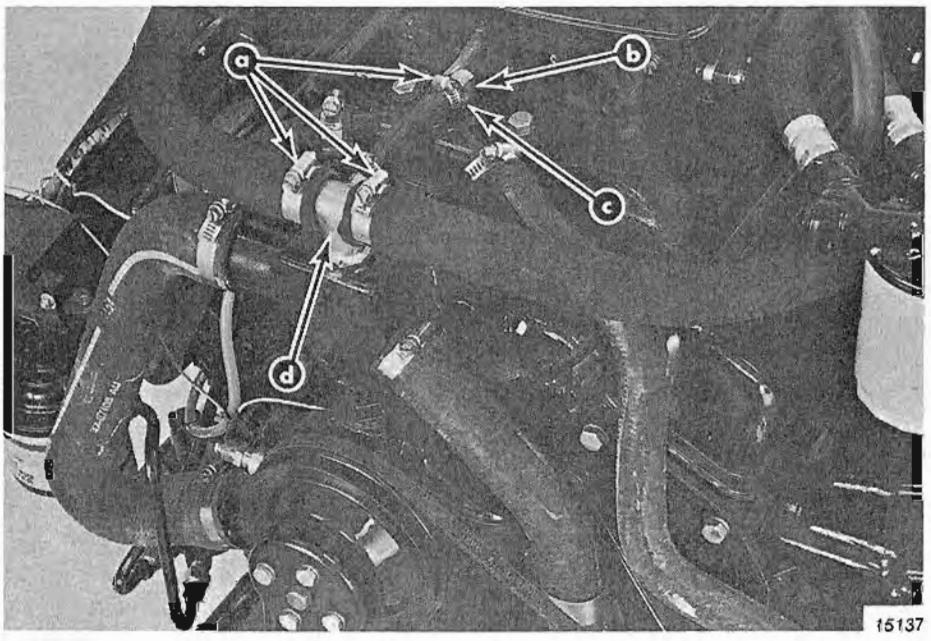
Under certain operating conditions, the above model engines may overheat at idle RPM. Usually by increasing engine RPM, the engine temperature will drop. If this condition exists, order a new tee-fitting (with poppet valves). Install as shown in Figures 1 and 2. Also, install a stainless steel restrictor plate between the exhaust manifold, as shown in Figure 3.

Earlier production and some dealers installed the tee-fitting but not the restrictor plates. It is recommended that when servicing these engines, the restrictor plate be added at that time. The serial number of engines affected are listed below. Engines above these serial numbers have both the tee-fitting and restrictor plates installed in production.

	L.H. Rotation	R.H. Rotation
MIE 230	6040716 - 6145057	6040746 - 6145077
MIE 260	5826876 - 6165116	5826888 - 5941458
MIE 340	5826538 - 6040983	5826550 - 6040880
MCM 330	6083145 - 6170394	

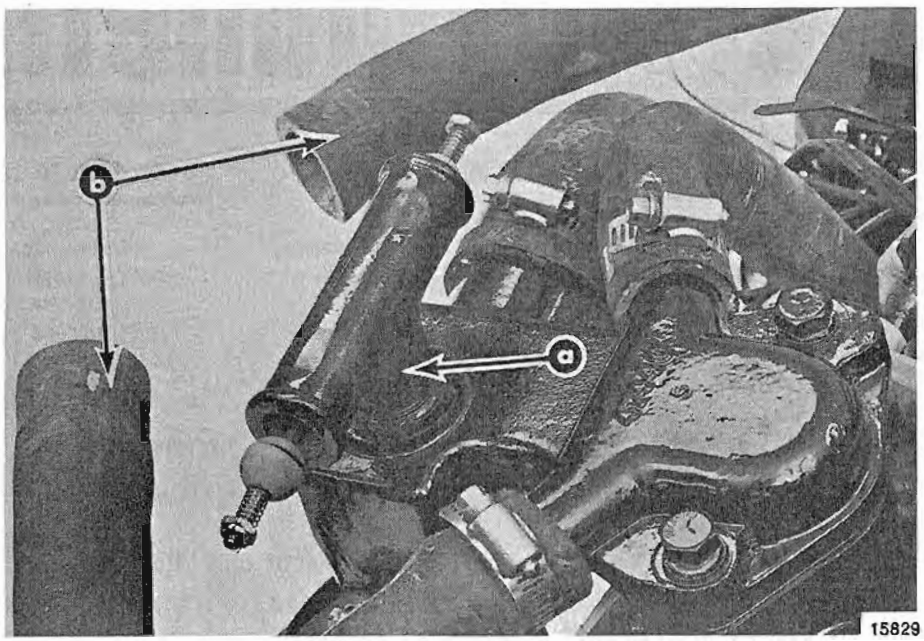
Order as required, for each engine:

1	Tee-Fitting	22-98477A1
2	Restrictor Plate	99208A1
4	Gaskets	27-87105



a - Remove Clamps and Hoses
b - Remove 90° Elbow
c - Install 1/8" Pipe Plug
d - Remove Tee Fitting

Figure 1. Removing Tee Fitting and Air Bleed Hose



a - Put Teflon Tape Around Threads and Install 22-98477A1 Tee Fitting
b - Reinstall Hoses and Clamps

Figure 2. Installing New Tee Fitting

1. Install restrictor plate between exhaust elbow and manifold as shown.
2. 3″ or 6″ Exhaust Elbow Riser Kits: If these kits are installed, restrictor plate MUST BE INSTALLED between the riser and exhaust elbow.

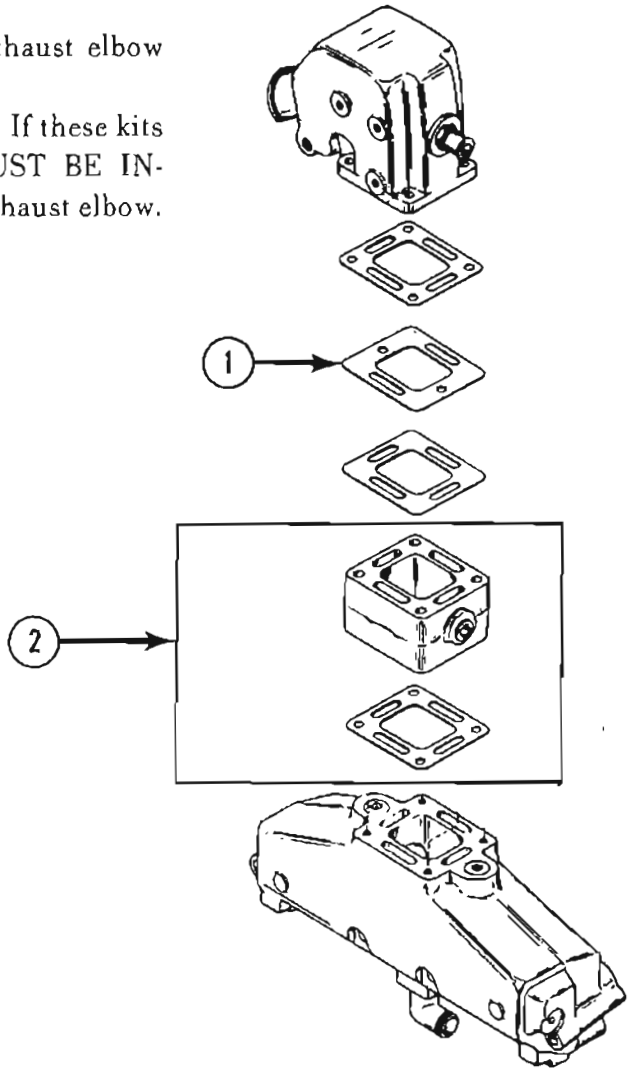


Figure 3. Restrictor Plate Installation

B. IMPROVED SPARK PLUG BOOT FOR THUNDERBOLT IV (HEI) IGNITION SYSTEMS - MIE 230/260/340 and MCM 898R/228R/260R/330 (B-W) MODELS

If loose spark plug wire (with red boot) is experienced at the spark plug, it is recommended that all spark plug wires be replaced. The replacement spark plug wire set will have the improved (grey) spark plug boot. It is also suggested if the boat has twin engines, both engines have new spark plug wire sets installed.

Be sure to route spark plug wires properly, as outlined in subject "C", following. The serial numbers of engines affected are listed below.

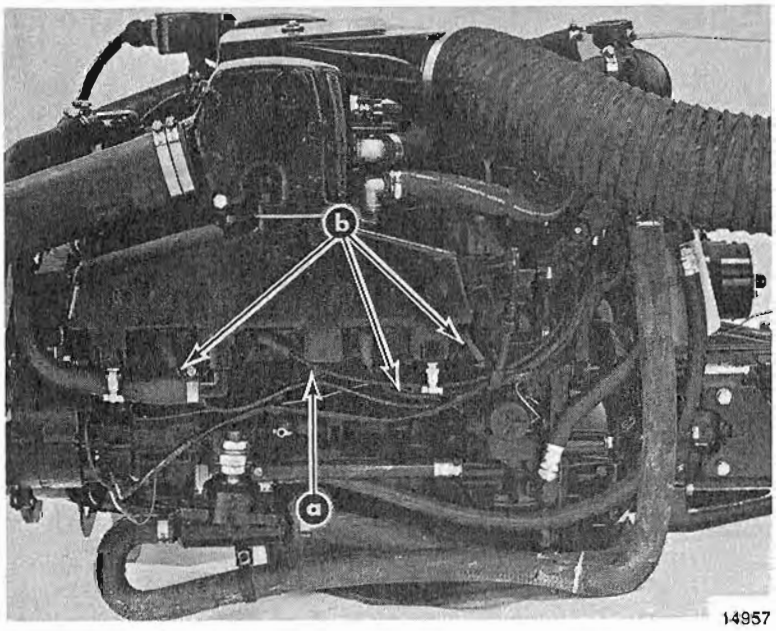
	L.H. Rotation	R.H. Rotation
MIE 230	6040716 - 6279012	6040746 - 6279017
MIE 260	5826876 - 6032966	5826888 - 6040667
MIE 340	5826538 - 6064364	5826550 - 6064467
MCM 898R	6218462 - 6324699	
MCM 228R	6225267 - 6271855	
MCM 260R	6227782 - 6261597	
MCM 330	6083145 - 6255468	

Order spark plug wire kit from the chart below:

Model	Part Number
MIE 230/260 (L.H. Rotation) MCM 898R/228R/260R	84-43376A4
MIE 230/260 (R.H. Rotation)	84-43376A3
MIE 340 (L.H. Rotation) MCM 330 (B-W)	84-43376A2
MIE 340 (R.H. Rotation)	84-43376A1

C. SPARK PLUG WIRE POSITIONING - MIE 230/260/340 and MCM 898R/228R/260R/330 (B-W) MODELS

Care must be taken when installing spark plug wires or removing the distributor cap. If the spark plug wires are not positioned correctly, they can be too close to the exhaust manifold or actually lay against the manifolds, causing the wire to burn. See Figure 4 for correct positioning.



a - Incorrect
(Too Close to
Exhaust Manifold)
b - Correct
(Boot Pointed Downward)

Figure 4. Spark Plug Wire Positioning

After servicing spark plugs, wires or distributor cap, pull slack, in spark plug wires, TOWARD spark plug. Point spark plug boot DOWNWARD and make sure spark plug wire does not come in contact with exhaust manifold(s).

MIE 340 Models with Rear Mounted Closed Cooling Systems - Refer to Service Bulletin 82-2 also.

D. QUICKSILVER INSULATING COMPOUND USED ON IGNITION COIL TOWER - MIE 230/260/340 and MCM 898R/228R/260R/330 (B-W) MODELS

Whenever servicing these model engines, with Thunderbolt IV (HEI) Ignition Systems, we recommend that Insulating Compound (92-41669-1) be applied to the coil tower. Refer to Service Bulletin 83-3 for directions.